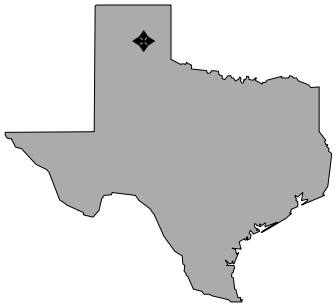
Size: 16,000 acres
Mission: Produced and stored military weapons
HRS Score: 51.22; placed on NPL in May 1994
IAG Status: Under negotiation
Contaminants: VOCs, SVOCs, heavy metals, chlordane, UXO, and explosives
Media Affected: Groundwater, surface water, sediment, and soil
Funding to Date: $5.4 million
Estimated Cost to Completion (Completion Year): $9.5 million (FY2026)
Final Remedy in Place or Response Complete Date for All Sites: FY2007



Pantex Village, Texas

Restoration Background

The former Pantex Ordnance Plant, 13 miles northeast of Amarillo, Texas, began operations in 1942 as an Army Ordnance Corps facility. The property is owned by the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) and Texas Tech University. Operations conducted there include fabrication, assembly, testing, and disassembly of nuclear ammunition and weapons. Sources of contamination have included burning of chemical waste in unlined pits, burial of waste in unlined landfills, and discharge of plant wastewaters into on-site surface water.

Environmental studies of the southern 5,000 acres, owned by Texas Tech University, began in FY88. A Preliminary Assessment and Site Inspection in FY90 identified nine areas of emphasis (AOEs) for investigation. It was suspected that some AOEs contained ordnance and explosives (OE). An Interim Remedial Action was conducted at three AOEs to remove OE from soil to a depth of 3 feet.

In FY94, a Phase I Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study (RI/FS) began for two AOEs. RI/FS activities included sampling of surface and subsurface soil, sediment, surface water, and groundwater. The analysis indicated that explosives, mercury, lead, chromium, and chlordane were the primary contaminants of concern. The installation began an Engineering Evaluation and Cost Analysis (EE/CA) of four AOEs where Non-Time-Critical Removal Actions might be necessary.

In FY95, the final Phase I RI report was completed for the hazardous, toxic, and radioactive waste (HTRW) project, and the draft EE/CA report was completed for the OE project. In addition, a public meeting was held to present information about environmental restoration projects at the installation. DOE and Texas Tech University established a partnership with the Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission (TNRCC) to continue quarterly groundwater sampling.

In FY96, a contract was awarded for preparation of a potentially responsible party (PRP) search work plan. The PRP work plan will address property owned by DOE and Texas Tech University.

Representatives of Texas Tech University, DOE, the community, and TNRCC met to review the site's status and discuss concerns. TNRCC did not agree with the recommendation of the EE/CA report. Therefore, the cleanup remedy recommended in the report was not implemented.

In FY97, contracts were awarded for the DOE PRP and the Texas Tech property record search. The phase II HTRW investigation began for the Texas Tech property. The DOE record search was completed, and a final report was submitted.

FY98 Restoration Progress

The HTRW investigation for Texas Tech was completed, and the findings report is scheduled to be completed by December 1998. The PRP record search for Texas Tech also was completed.

Selection and implementation of a cleanup remedy were delayed because TNRCC has not provided a written response to the EE/CA report.

Plan of Action

- In FY99, meet with DOE and Texas Tech to determine PRP responsibility
- In FY99, implement the cleanup recommended in the EE/CA report for the OE project, after obtaining approval of TNRCC
- Complete findings report on HTRW investigation for Texas Tech in FY99

FY99 Funding by Phase and Relative Risk